Financial performance of Speed Post Services

2992. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial performance of Speed Post Services for the year 2000-01 has come under severe comments by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his report for the year 2002;

(b) whether Speed Post Sevices short-achieved financial targets by over 40 percent during the year; and

(c) what are the other observations made by the CAG and losses incurred by the Department of Posts due to lapses in its operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Director General, P&T Audit has carried out a review of Speed Post services, finalized paras on related issues and forwarded to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. These paras have been published in Report No. 6 of 2002 (Posts and Telecommunications) of Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The Audit Paras include items given the Statement (*See* below).

(b) No separate revenue target for Speed Post service is fixed for the Postal Circles. However, combined target for all the business group products is fixed. For the year 2000-2001 revenue target for business development group was Rs.320 crores against which achievement was 281.91 crore. Revenue collection from Speed Post in the year 2000-2001 was Rs.151.44 crores representing a growth rate of 20.03% over previous year.

(c) The Review Report of P&T Audit has since been received through Comptroller and Auditor General. No losses have been pointed out due to lapses in operations.

Statement

The Items which are included in the Audit Paras

Para 52.5	Budget Allotment and Actual expenditure of Department of Posts
Para 52.6	Manpower Utilisation
Para 52.8	Operational Network
Para 52.9.1	Time taken for delivery
Para 52.9.2	Accuracy of records
Para 52.9.3	Complaints
Para 52.10	Heavy outstanding under Credit Management Scheme
Para 52.11.1	Irregular grant of rebate to bulk customers-Rs.103.85 lakh
Para 52.11.2	Irregular grant of incentive to staff-5.11lakh
Para 52.12	Loss of revenue of Rs.102.34 lakh

Indo-Romanian agreement on I.T.

2993. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Romania have entered into an agreement institutionalising a frame-work for cooperation and collaboration in critical sector of IT;

(b) whether any time-frame has been fixed for this;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any areas have been identified as areas for cooperation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.